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[54] **APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR SECURING ELECTRONIC INFORMATION IN A WIRELESS COMMUNICATION DEVICE**

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

WO 93/10498 5/1993 WIPO .

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

[21] Appl. No.: **08/775,656**

An apparatus (200) for securing electronic information (205) includes a microcontroller (202) and an external memory (204) coupled thereto. The microcontroller (202) comprises a one-time programmable security flag (230) that is programmed when the electronic information (205) is stored in the memory (204). Once programmed, the security flag prevents reprogramming of the memory (204). Additionally, the microcontroller (202) comprises an algorithm (400) that generates electronic authentication information (207) from the electronic information (205). The authentication information (207) is stored in the memory (204) along with the electronic information (205). Upon retrieval from the memory (204) for registration, the electronic information (205) is authenticated by generating new electronic authentication information (508) via the algorithm (400) to compare to the authentication information (207) stored in the memory (204). Such authentication prevents swapping out of the memory (204) to gain system access.

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[52] U.S. Cl. **713/200; 340/825.31; 340/825.34**

[58] Field of Search 340/825.31, 825.34; 380/3, 4, 25, 30; 395/186, 187.01, 188.01, 200.59

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26 Claims, 4 Drawing Sheets

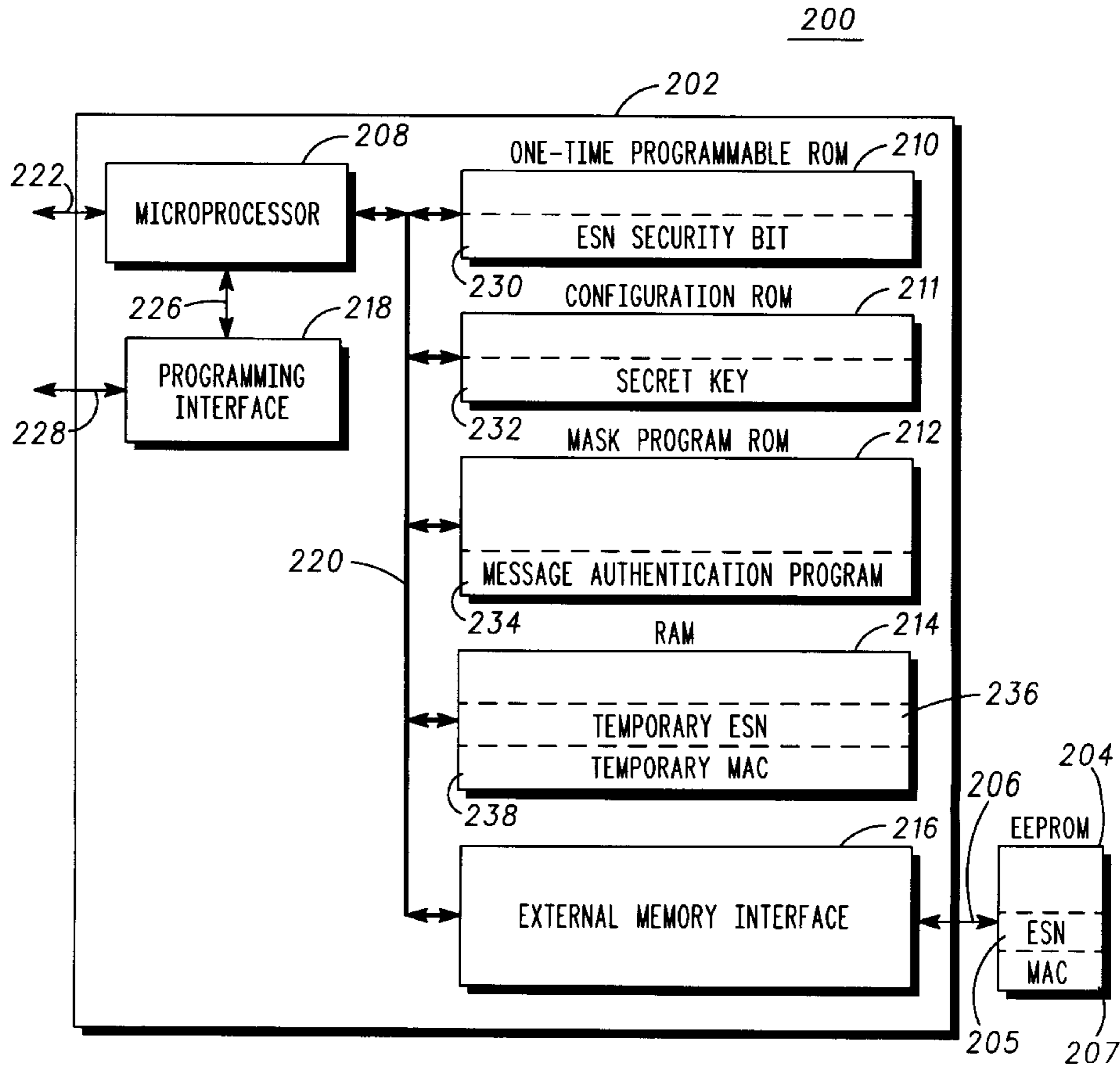


FIG. 1 100

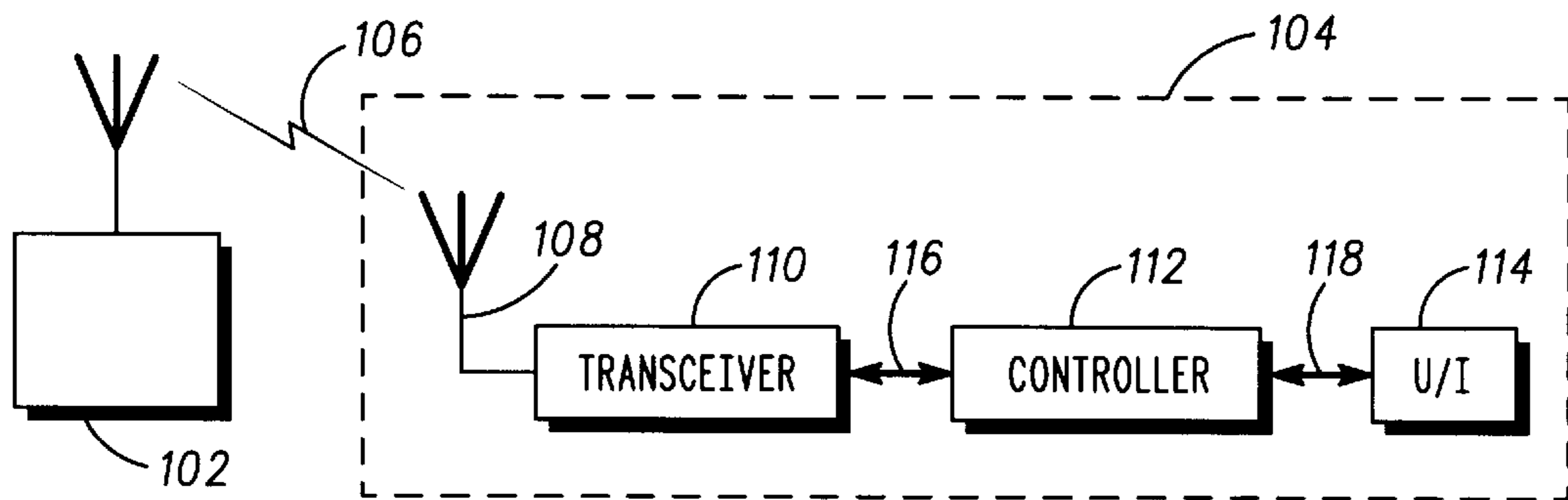


FIG. 2 200

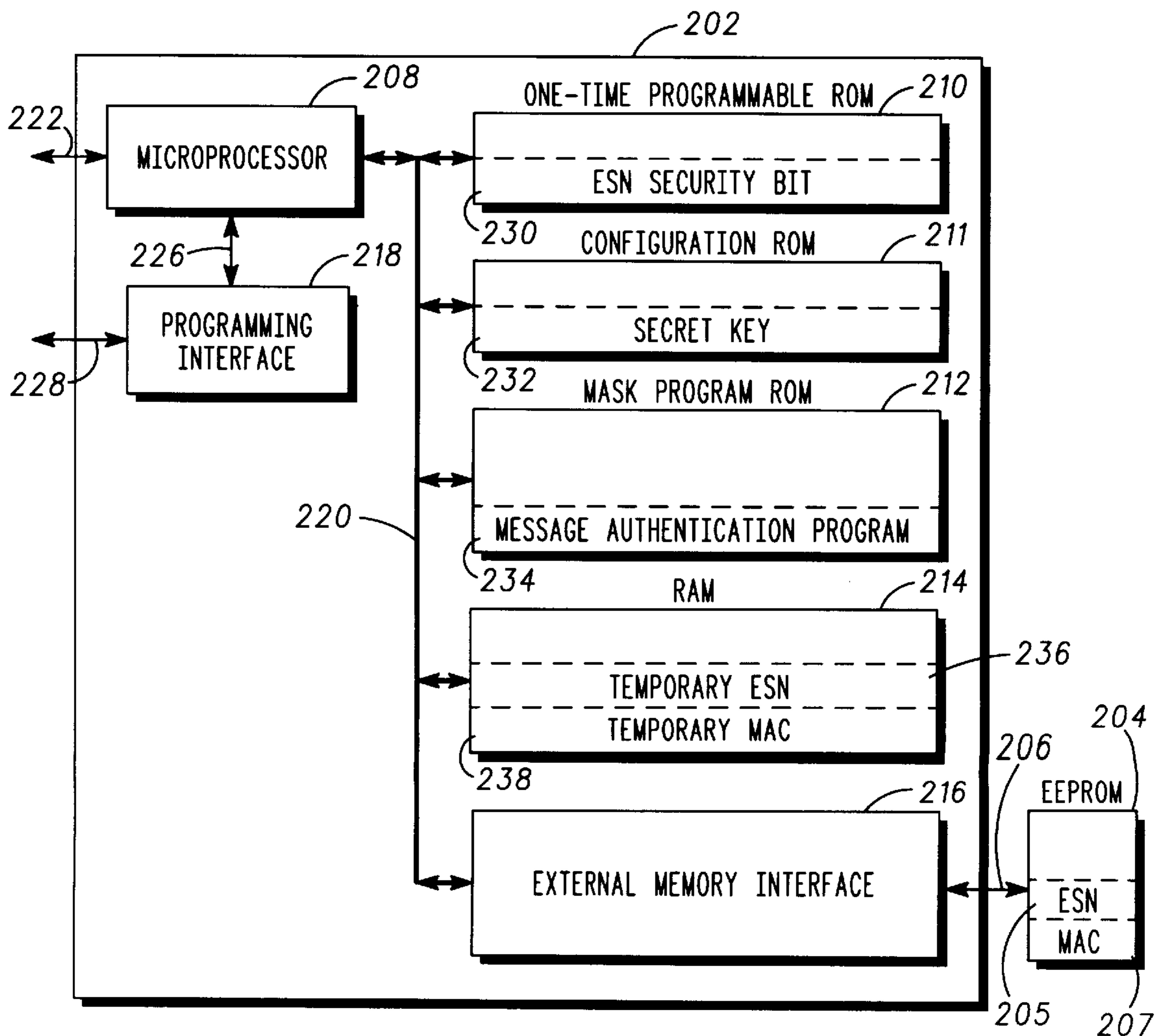


FIG. 3

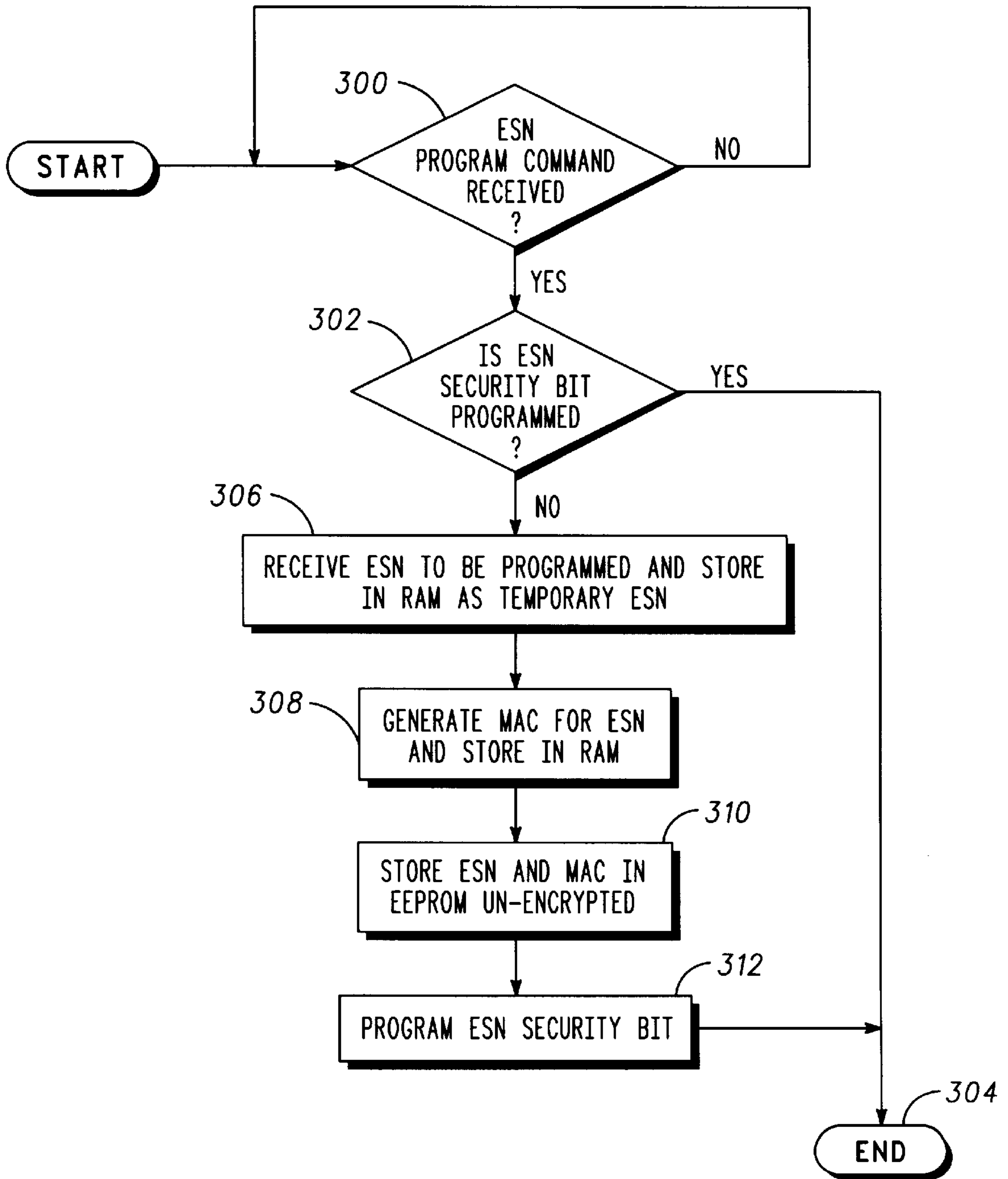


FIG. 4

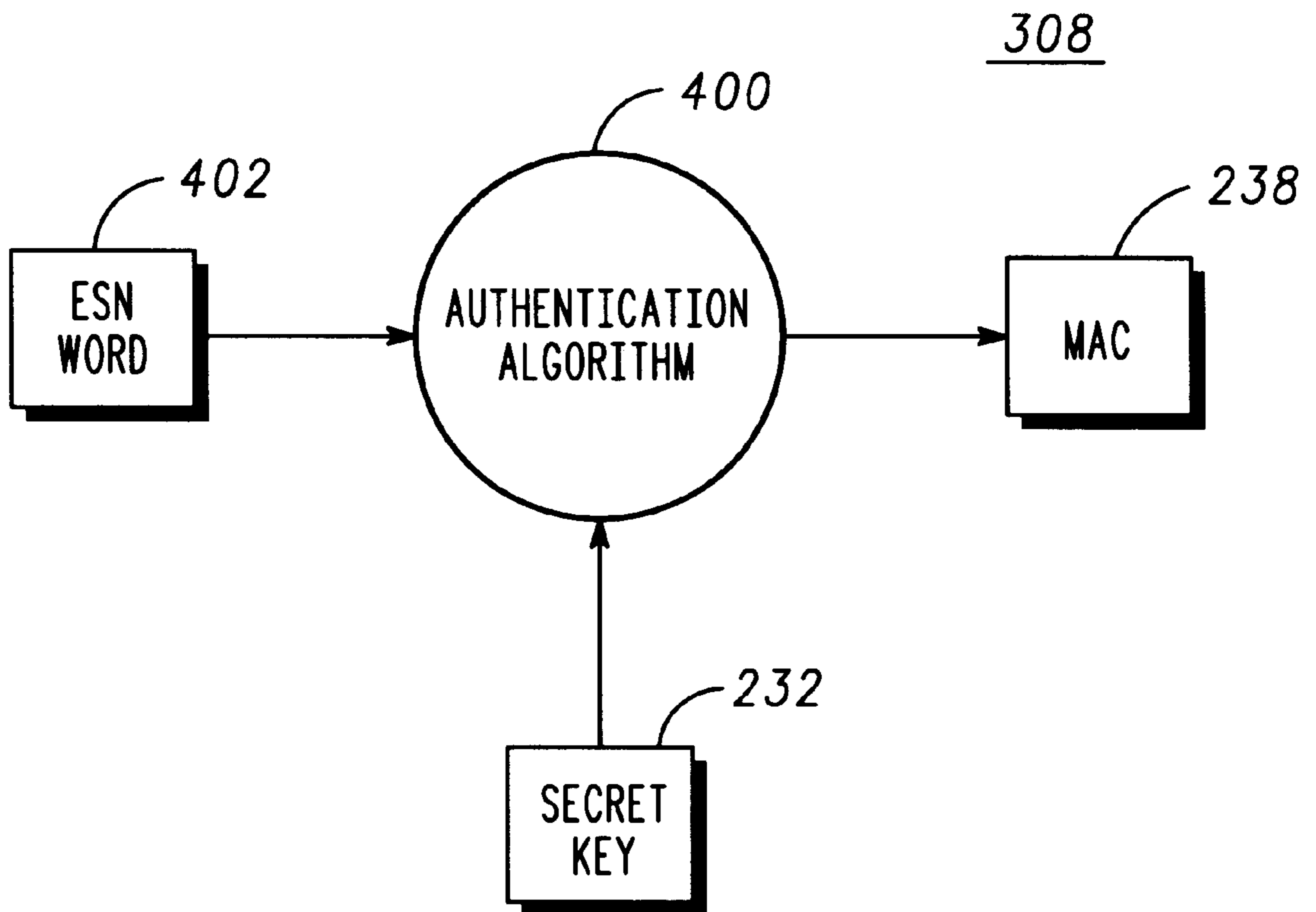
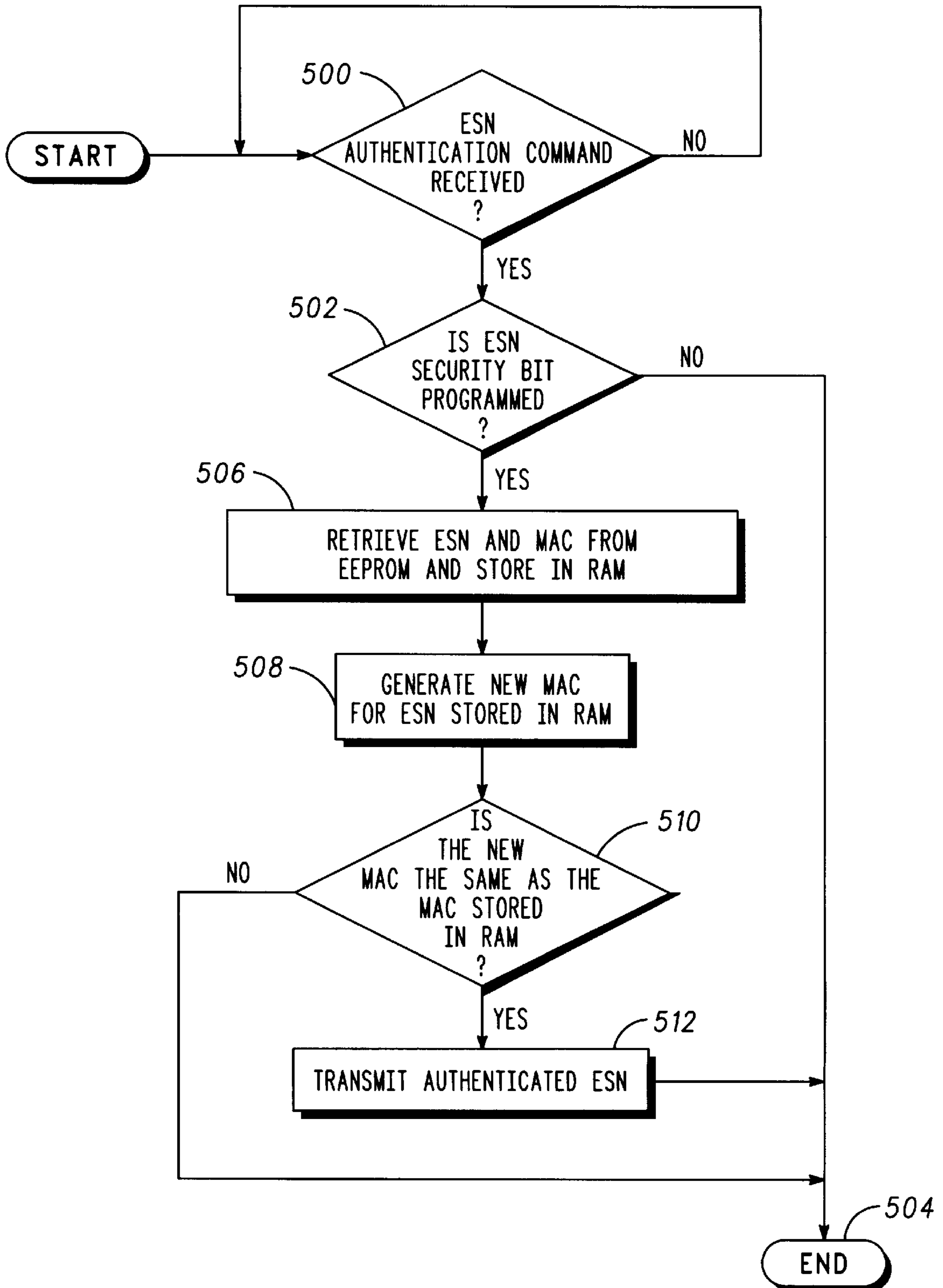


FIG. 5



APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR SECURING ELECTRONIC INFORMATION IN A WIRELESS COMMUNICATION DEVICE

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates generally to a wireless communication device and more particularly to electronic information stored in a wireless communication device.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Wireless communication systems have become increasingly common. In such systems, a subscriber uses a local communication device, such as a portable cellular telephone, to communicate with a remote communication device, such as a cellular base station. Communication is accomplished via the transmission of radio frequency (RF) signals between the local device and the remote device.

To initiate communication, the local device communicates electronic information, such as an electronic serial number (ESN), to the remote device for registration. Upon receipt, the remote device determines whether the local device is permitted to make calls in the system based on the ESN. Aside from being used for limiting system access only to authorized users, the ESN is used for billing subscribers for calls made over the system.

In many wireless communication systems, the ESN is transmitted to the remote device in an un-encrypted manner and, thus, it is not secret and is susceptible to receipt by an unauthorized party. The unauthorized party may engage in fraudulent activity by programming the electronic information into, and making counterfeit calls via, a local device. Such fraud results in billing authorized subscribers for calls they did not make.

In the past, the risk of fraud was reduced by storing the ESN in a non-volatile memory device within a semiconductor device, such as an integrated circuit. More specifically, the ESN was stored in an EEPROM (electrically erasable programmable read only memory) that was internally disposed in a microcontroller employed by the local communication device. In operation, the EEPROM could not be accessed via the pinouts of the microprocessor and, thus, could not easily be reprogrammed or replaced with a "cloned" ESN.

However, combining an EEPROM on the same integrated circuit as a microcontroller is very expensive. The semiconductor manufacturing processes capable of providing non-volatile memory devices are expensive relative to those processes capable of providing logic circuitry only. Also, where the non-volatile memory and the logic circuitry are combined in a single microcontroller, yield reductions due to non-volatile memory programming failures can greatly increase the expense of the finished product.

Therefore, what is needed is an apparatus and method for securing electronic information, such as an ESN, that does not require the use of a non-volatile memory device packaged within a microcontroller device.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a block diagram illustrating a wireless communication system employing remote and local communication devices;

FIG. 2 is a block diagram of an apparatus employed in a controller of the local communication device of FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 is a flowchart illustrating a method employed by the apparatus of FIG. 2 for programming electronic information therein;

FIG. 4 is a functional block diagram illustrating a method employed by the apparatus of FIG. 2 for generating an authentication code associated with the electronic information of FIG. 3; and

FIG. 5 is a flowchart illustrating a method employed by the apparatus of FIG. 2 to authenticate the electronic information of FIG. 3.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

An apparatus for securing electronic information includes a non-volatile memory and a microcontroller. The memory is externally coupled to the microcontroller. The microcontroller comprises a one-time programmable security flag that is programmed when the electronic information is stored in the memory. Once programmed, the security flag prevents reprogramming of the memory. Additionally, the microcontroller comprises an encryption algorithm that generates electronic authentication information during programming of the electronic information. The electronic authentication information is stored in the memory along with the electronic information. Upon retrieval from the memory for registration, the electronic information is authenticated by generating new electronic authentication information via the encryption algorithm to compare to the electronic authentication information stored in the memory. Such authentication prevents swapping out of the memory to gain system access. Thus, unlike the previous apparatuses, the present apparatus secures electronic information in a memory external to a microcontroller.

A communication system **100**, shown in FIG. 1, comprises remote and local communication devices **102** and **104** that communicate via a wireless communication link **106**. In the illustrated embodiment, the remote and local devices **102** and **104** are a cellular base station and a cellular radiotelephone, respectively, and the wireless link **106** comprises RF signals. The local device **104** includes an antenna **108**, a transceiver **110**, a controller **112**, and a user interface **114**. The user-interface **114** typically includes a microphone, a speaker, a keypad, a display, and an external test connector.

When the local device **104** is in a powered-on state, the RF signals of the wireless link **106** are received by the antenna **108** and converted by the transceiver into receive data signals, which are coupled to the controller **112** via bus **116**. The controller **112** processes the received data and voice signals that are further coupled, via bus **118**, to the user interface **114** for output. Voice and data input to the user interface **114** is coupled to the controller **112**, via bus **118**, for processing into transmit data signals. The controller **112** outputs the transmit signals on bus **116** for conversion by the transceiver **110** and emission by the antenna **108** as the RF signals of the wireless link **106**.

The controller **112** includes an apparatus **200**, shown in FIG. 2. The apparatus **200** includes a microcontroller **202** and an EEPROM **204**. The EEPROM **204** interfaces to the microcontroller **202** via a serial format. The EEPROM **204** includes a location for storing electronic information. In the illustrated embodiment, the electronic information is an electronic serial number (ESN) **205** consisting of a **32** binary bit number. The ESN **205** uniquely identifies the local device **104** of FIG. 1 and is used by the local device **104** of FIG. 1 to gain authorized access to the communication system **100**. The EEPROM **204** of FIG. 2 also includes a location for storing electronic authentication information used to authenticate the electronic information. In the illustrated embodiment, the electronic authentication information is a

message authentication code (MAC) **207** consisting of a 32 binary bit number.

The microcontroller **202** comprises a microprocessor **208**, a one-time programmable ROM (read-only memory) **210**, a configuration ROM **211**, a mask program ROM **212**, a RAM (random-access memory) **214**, an external memory interface **216**, and a programming interface **218**. The microprocessor **208** is coupled to the programming interface **218** via serial bus **226**, which is internal to the microcontroller **202**. The microprocessor **208**, the one-time programmable ROM **210**, the configuration ROM **211**, the mask program ROM **212**, the RAM **214**, and the external memory interface **216** are coupled by a common parallel bus **220**, which is internal to the microcontroller **202**. The microprocessor **208** is coupled to the transceiver **110**, other circuitry of the controller **112**, and the user interface **114** via bus **222**, which extends outside of the microcontroller **202**. The programming interface **218** is coupled to the user interface **114** via bus **228**, which extends outside of the microcontroller **202**. Buses **222** and **228** may form sub-busses of busses **116** and **118** of FIG. 1. The external memory interface **216** of FIG. 2 is coupled to the EEPROM **204** via bus **206**, which extends outside of the microcontroller **202**. The microcontroller **202** is preferably fabricated in a single integrated circuit using known semiconductor fabrication techniques.

The microprocessor **208** is a parallel device that operates responsive to program instructions and data for controlling the apparatus **200**. The program instructions are electronic information stored in the mask program ROM **212** or a ROM (not shown) externally coupled to the microcontroller **202**. The data is electronic information preferably stored in the configuration ROM **211** and the RAM **214**. Via the common bus **220**, the microprocessor **208** accesses the one-time programmable ROM **210**, the configuration ROM **211**, the mask program ROM **212**, and the RAM **214** to retrieve electronic information, such as the program instructions and data, therefrom; to execute program instructions therein; to store electronic information therein; and the like. All bus transactions involving the common bus **220** are not visible outside of the microcontroller **202**. The one-time programmable ROM **210**, the mask program ROM **212**, and the RAM **214** can not accessed outside of the microcontroller **202**.

The one-time programmable ROM **210** includes a location for storing a security flag for preventing reprogramming of the electronic information. In the illustrated embodiment, the security flag is an ESN security bit **230** consisting of a one binary bit number. A binary "one" in the ESN security bit **230** indicates that the ESN **205** and MAC **207** have been programmed into the EEPROM **204**. A binary "zero" in the ESN security bit **230** indicates that the ESN **205** and the MAC **207** have not been programmed into the EEPROM **204**. The ESN security bit **230** is stored in the one-time programmable ROM **210** during programming of the electronic information, as further described below. The one-time programmable ROM **210** may be implemented by a fuse bank or other one time programmable technology.

The configuration ROM **211** includes a location for storing an encryption key used in the generation of the electronic authentication information. In the illustrated embodiment, the encryption key is a secret key **232** consisting of 64 binary bits that comprise a random **56** binary bit number and an 8 binary bit checksum. The secret key **232** is stored in the configuration ROM **211** during fabrication of the microcontroller **202**, such as at wafer probe using laser trim or fusible link techniques. To ensure security of the secret key **232**, the microcontroller **202** disables accesses to the secret key **232**

while executing code external to the mask program ROM **212**. Such security measures are further described in U.S. patent application Ser. No. 08/730,188, "Microcontroller Which Limits Access to Internal Memory", filed in behalf of Dorsey et al. on Oct. 14, 1996, and assigned to Motorola, Inc.

The mask program ROM **212** includes a location for storing instructions for authenticating the electronic information. In the illustrated embodiment, the instructions are a message authentication program **234**. The message authentication program **234** is preferably stored in the mask program ROM **212** during fabrication of the microcontroller **202**.

The RAM **214** provides locations for temporary storage of the electronic information and the electronic authentication information during programming and authentication processes described further below. In the illustrated embodiment, the electronic information is temporarily stored in the RAM **214** as a temporary ESN **236** comprising a 32 binary bit number and the electronic authentication information is temporarily stored in the RAM **214** as a temporary MAC **238** comprising a 32 binary bit number.

The external memory interface **216** provides compatibility between the microprocessor **208** and the EEPROM **204**. The external memory interface **216** converts electronic information output by the microprocessor **208** from a parallel format on bus **220** into a serial format on bus **206**. Likewise, the external memory interface **216** converts electronic information retrieved from the EEPROM **204** via bus **206** from a serial format into a parallel format on bus **220**.

The programming interface **218** permits programming of the electronic information into the apparatus **200**. The programming interface **218** provides compatibility between the microprocessor **208** and an external programming fixture (not shown) that detachably couples to the external test connector of the user interface **114**. In the illustrated embodiment, the programming interface **218** converts the electronic information output by the external programming fixture from a proprietary protocol, such as the three-wire bus protocol or the DSC (Digital Speech Control) protocol, on bus **228** into a serial format on bus **226**. Likewise, the programming interface **218** converts electronic information output by the microprocessor **208** from a serial format on bus **226** into the proprietary protocol on bus **228**.

The electronic information is programmed into the apparatus **200** according to a method illustrated in FIG. 3. The method of FIG. 3 is described hereinbelow in conjunction with FIG. 2. The method is performed by the microprocessor **208** as part of its program instructions. The method is initiated upon attachment of the programming fixture to the programming interface **218** (via the user interface **114** and bus **228**) and reception of an ESN program command from the programming fixture (at block **300**). Upon reception of the command, the microprocessor **208** reads the ESN security bit **230** from the one-time programmable ROM **210** (at block **302**). If the ESN security bit **230** is a binary "one" (i.e., the ESN security bit **230** has already been programmed), the microprocessor **208** responds to the ESN program command by halting this subsequent attempt to program an ESN into the EEPROM **204** (at block **304**).

If the ESN security bit **230** is a binary "zero", the microprocessor **208** proceeds to program the EEPROM **204**. The microprocessor **208** responds to the ESN program command by receiving an ESN from the programming fixture and temporarily storing this ESN in the RAM **214** as the temporary ESN **236** (at block **306**). The microprocessor

208 generates a MAC associated with the temporary ESN **236** and stores this MAC in the RAM **214** as the temporary MAC **238** (at block **308**).

The temporary MAC **238** is generated according to a method illustrated in FIG. 4. The method is embodied in the message authentication program **234** of FIG. 2 stored in the mask program ROM **212**. The message authentication program **234** is executed from the mask program ROM **212** by the microprocessor **208**. The message authentication program **234** comprises an authentication algorithm **400** of FIG. 4. The authentication algorithm **400** is an encryption algorithm that generates electronic authentication information from electronic information using an encryption key.

In the illustrated embodiment, the authentication algorithm **400** is the Data Authentication Algorithm (DAA) defined by the National Institute of Standards of the U.S. Department of Commerce in FIPS (Federal Information Processing Standards) Publication No. 113. The DAA uses the Data Encryption Standard (DES) defined by the National Institute of Standards of the U.S. Department of Commerce in FIPS Publication No. 46-1. To generate the temporary MAC **238**, the microprocessor **208** retrieves the secret key **232** from the configuration ROM **211** and inputs the secret key **232** and an ESN word **402** to the authentication algorithm **400**.

For compatibility with the DES, the ESN word **402** comprises a **64** bit binary number or a multiple of a **64** bit binary number. In one embodiment, the microprocessor **208** generates the ESN word **402** by appending **32** binary "zero" bits to the end of the temporary ESN **236**. In another embodiment, the microprocessor **208** appends a message, such as a hash code, to the end of the temporary ESN **236**. A hash code is a condensed representation of a larger message. One example of the hash code would be a **32** binary bit check sum generated from the contents of the mask program ROM **212**. Another example would be a message digest generated in accordance with the Secure Hash Algorithm (SHA-1) defined by the National Institute of Standards of the U.S. Department of Commerce in FIPS Publication No. 180-1. The message digest is a **160** binary bit number generated by the SHA-1 from any message up to 2^{64} binary bit numbers in length, such as the program instructions stored in the mask program ROM **212** or the ROM (not shown) external to the microcontroller **202**. Any changes to the message (i.e., the program instructions of the mask program ROM or the external ROM) will result in the generation of a different message digest. Once generated, the message digest can be stored in the EEPROM **204**.

Although the DAA, the DES, and the SHA-1 are preferably employed in the illustrated embodiment, one skilled in the art will recognize that other cryptographic algorithms can alternatively be used to generate the electronic authentication information and, thus, "algorithm" as used herein shall refer to each of these and their equivalents.

Referring back to FIGS. 2 and 3, once the temporary MAC **238** is generated, the microprocessor **208** stores the temporary ESN **236** and the temporary MAC **238** in the EEPROM **204** as the ESN **205** and the MAC **207**, respectively (at block **310**). The ESN **205** and the MAC **207** stored in the EEPROM **204** are not encrypted. The microprocessor **208** programs the ESN security bit **230** in the one-time programmable ROM **210** to have a binary "one" value (at block **312**). Once the ESN security bit **230** is programmed, the method of programming the electronic information is concluded (at block **304**).

Prior to making calls, the local device **104** of FIG. 1 must transmit the ESN **205** of FIG. 2 to the remote device **102** of

FIG. 1 for registration on the communication system **100**. If registration is not accomplished, no calls can be made or received by the local device **104**. Prior to transmitting the ESN **205** to the remote device **102**, the apparatus **200** of FIG. 2 authenticates the ESN **205** according to a method illustrated in FIG. 5. Authentication minimizes the opportunity for fraudulent use of the ESN **205** in the local device **104** or other local devices for use in the communication system **100**. The method of FIG. 5 is described hereinbelow in conjunction with FIG. 2. The method is embodied in the message authentication program **234** stored in the mask program ROM **212**. The message authentication program **234** is executed from the mask program ROM **212** by the microprocessor **208**. Control of the execution of the message authentication program **234** is secured by means described in U.S. patent application Ser. No. 08/730,188, previously cited.

The method is initiated during a power-up sequence of the local device **104** when the message authentication program **234** receives an ESN authentication command from the microprocessor **208** (at block **500**). Upon reception of the command, the message authentication program **234** directs the microprocessor **208** to read the ESN security bit **230** from the one-time programmable ROM **210** (at block **502**). If a binary "zero" is read (i.e., the ESN security bit **230** has not been programmed), the message authentication program **234** halts authentication and flags the microprocessor **208** to prevent registration (at block **504**).

If a binary "one" is read in the ESN security bit **230** (i.e., the ESN security bit **230** has been programmed), the message authentication program **234** proceeds to authenticate the ESN **205**. The message authentication program **234** directs the microprocessor **208** to retrieve the ESN **205** and the MAC **207** from the EEPROM **204** and store the ESN **205** and the MAC **207** as the temporary ESN **236** and the temporary MAC **238**, respectively, in the RAM **214** (at block **506**). The message authentication program **234** directs the microprocessor **208** to generate a new MAC from the temporary ESN **236** (at block **508**). The new MAC is generated in the manner previously described with respect to FIG. 4 and generation of the temporary MAC **238** during programming. That is, the authentication algorithm **400** generates the new MAC from the temporary ESN **236** and the secret key **232**.

Once generated, the message authentication program **234** directs the microprocessor **208** to compare the new MAC with the temporary MAC **238** (at block **510**). If the new MAC and the temporary MAC **238** do not match, the message authentication program **234** flags the microprocessor **208** to prevent registration (at block **504**). If the new MAC and the temporary MAC **238** are the same, the ESN **205** is authenticated. The message authentication program **234** flags the microprocessor **208** to proceed with registration and transmit the ESN **205** to the remote device **102** (at block **512**). Once the microprocessor **208** is flagged to transmit the ESN **205**, the method of authenticating the ESN **205** is concluded (at block **504**).

Although illustrated in a cellular radiotelephone, programming and authenticating electronic information as described herein will also find application in cordless telephones, two-way radios, trunked radios, pagers, personal digital assistants, and the like, and "device" as used herein shall refer to each of these and their equivalents.

Although the present apparatus and method is shown to secure an ESN in an external memory device, one skilled in the art will recognize that other electronic information, such

as program instructions stored in a ROM external to the microcontroller, could be similarly secured. By associating the program instructions in the ROM with both a security flag contained in the microcontroller and electronic authentication information stored in the ROM and performing authentication on the program instructions during the power-up sequence of the communication device, unauthorized reprogramming and swapping out of the external ROM can be deterred.

Thus, it can be seen that fraudulent use of electronic information to gain access to a communication system, such as a cellular radiotelephone system, can be minimized even if the electronic information, such as an ESN, is stored un-encrypted in a memory device, such as an EEPROM, external to a microcontroller integrated circuit. By employing a one-time programmable security bit in the microcontroller, reprogramming of the ESN is prevented. By employing a random, secret key-based authentication algorithm that creates and requires an association between the ESN and electronic authentication information, such as a MAC, system access can not be achieved by swapping out the EEPROM with another EEPROM containing a different ESN and MAC.

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus for securing electronic information in a wireless communication device, the wireless communication device for use in a wireless communication system, the apparatus comprising:

an external memory for storing the electronic information, the electronic information for use by the wireless communication device to establish communication with the wireless communication system; and

a microcontroller coupled to the external memory, the microcontroller comprising a programming interface and a one-time programmable memory for storage of a security flag, the microcontroller, upon determining that the security flag has not been previously programmed and receiving the electronic information at the programming interface, storing the electronic information in the external memory and programming the security flag to indicate storage of the electronic information in the external memory, and the microcontroller, upon determining that the security flag has been previously programmed, preventing reprogramming of the external memory.

2. An apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the microcontroller further comprises an internal bus, the internal bus for transacting communications within the microcontroller, said communications not visible outside of the microcontroller.

3. An apparatus according to claim 2 wherein the microcontroller further comprises a mask program memory coupled to the internal bus, the mask program memory storing an authentication algorithm, and the microcontroller, upon receiving the electronic information at the programming interface, executing the authentication algorithm to generate electronic authentication information from the electronic information.

4. An apparatus according to claim 3 further comprising an external bus coupled to the external memory; and

wherein the microcontroller further comprises an external memory interface coupled between the internal bus and the external bus, and the microcontroller stores the electronic authentication information in the external memory.

5. An apparatus according to claim 3 wherein the microcontroller further comprises a configuration memory storing an encryption key, the electronic information is an electronic serial number (ESN),

the electronic authentication information is a message authentication code (MAC), and

the authentication algorithm uses the encryption key and the ESN as input information and generates the MAC as output information.

6. An apparatus according to claim 5 wherein the ESN is input to the authentication algorithm as an ESN word having a multiple of a 64 bit number, and the secret encryption key is a 64 bit number consisting of a random 56 bit number and an 8 bit checksum.

7. An apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the microcontroller is fabricated in a single integrated circuit.

8. An apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the electronic information stored in the external memory is un-encrypted.

9. An apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the electronic information is an electronic serial number (ESN).

10. An apparatus for securing electronic information in a wireless communication device, the wireless communication device for use in a wireless communication system, the apparatus comprising:

an external memory storing the electronic information and electronic authentication information associated therewith, the electronic information for use by the wireless communication device to establish communication with the wireless communication system; and

a microcontroller coupled to the external memory, the microcontroller comprising a program memory storing an authentication algorithm, the microcontroller, upon request from the wireless communication device to establish communication with the wireless communication system, retrieving the electronic information and the electronic authentication information from the external memory, executing the authentication algorithm to generate new electronic authentication information from the retrieved electronic information, forwarding the electronic information for establishing communication with the wireless communication system when the new electronic authentication information matches the retrieved electronic authentication information, and preventing forwarding of the electronic information for establishing communication with the wireless communication system when the new electronic authentication information does not match the retrieved electronic authentication information.

11. An apparatus according to claim 10 wherein the microcontroller further comprises an internal bus, the internal bus for transacting communications within the microcontroller, said communications not visible outside of the microcontroller.

12. An apparatus according to claim 11 wherein the microcontroller further comprises a configuration memory coupled to the internal bus, the configuration memory storing an encryption key for use by the authentication algorithm.

13. An apparatus according to claim 11 further comprising an external bus coupled to the external memory; and wherein

the microcontroller further comprises an external memory interface coupled to the internal bus and the external bus, and

the microcontroller, upon generating the authentication information, transfers the electronic information and the electronic authentication information from the external memory for authentication in the microcontroller.

14. An apparatus according to claim **11** wherein the microcontroller further comprises a one-time programmable memory coupled to the internal bus, the one-time programmable memory storing a security flag, and

the microcontroller, prior to retrieving the electronic information and the electronic authentication information from the external memory, determining that the security flag has previously been programmed to indicate storage of the electronic information and the electronic authentication information in the external memory.

15. A wireless communication device according to claim **10** wherein the microcontroller is fabricated in a single integrated circuit.

16. An apparatus according to claim **10** wherein the electronic information stored in the external memory is un-encrypted.

17. An apparatus according to claim **10** wherein the electronic information is an electronic serial number (ESN).

18. An apparatus according to claim **17** wherein the microcontroller further comprises a configuration memory storing an encryption key,

the new electronic authentication information is a new message authentication code (MAC), and

the authentication algorithm uses the encryption key and the ESN as input information and generates the new MAC as output information.

19. An apparatus according to claim **18** wherein the ESN is input to the authentication algorithm as an ESN word having a multiple of a 64 bit number, and the secret encryption key is a 64 bit number consisting of a random 56 bit number and an 8 bit checksum.

20. A wireless communication device having a power-on state and for use in a wireless communication system, the wireless communication device comprising:

an antenna;

a transceiver coupled to the antenna;

a user interface; and

a controller coupled to the transceiver and the user interface, the controller comprising:

an external memory storing an electronic serial number (ESN) in an un-encrypted form and electronic authentication information associated with the ESN, the ESN for use by the wireless communication device to obtain registration on the wireless communication system, and

a microcontroller coupled to the external memory, the microcontroller comprising:

a one-time programmable memory storing a security flag,

a program memory storing an authentication algorithm, and

a microprocessor coupled to the external memory, the one-time programmable memory, and the program memory, the microprocessor, responsive to initiation of the power-on state and determination that the security flag indicates that the ESN is stored in the external memory, retrieving the ESN and the electronic authentication information from

the external memory, authenticating the ESN using the authentication algorithm, and, once authenticated, coupling the ESN to the transceiver for transmission in the wireless communication system.

21. A wireless communication device according to claim **20** wherein the microcontroller authenticates the ESN by executing the authentication algorithm to generate new electronic authentication information from the retrieved ESN, and forwarding the retrieved ESN for transmission when the new electronic authentication information matches the retrieved electronic authentication information.

22. A wireless communication device according to claim **21** wherein

the microcontroller further comprises a configuration memory storing an encryption key,

the new electronic authentication information is a new message authentication code (MAC), and

the authentication algorithm uses the encryption key and the ESN as input information and generates the new MAC as output information.

23. An apparatus according to claim **22** wherein the ESN is input to the authentication algorithm as an ESN word having a multiple of a 64 bit number, and the secret encryption key is a 64 bit number consisting of a random 56 bit number and an 8 bit checksum.

24. A wireless communication device for use in a wireless communication system, the wireless communication device comprising:

an antenna;

a transceiver coupled to the antenna;

a user interface; and

a controller coupled to the transceiver and the user interface, the controller comprising:

a microcontroller comprising:

a programming interface;

a one-time programmable read-only memory (ROM) for storing an electronic serial number (ESN) security flag;

a configuration ROM for storing a secret key;

a mask program ROM for storing a message authentication program;

a random-access memory (RAM) for storing a temporary ESN and a temporary message authentication code (MAC);

an external memory interface;

a microprocessor coupled to the programming interface, the one-time programmable ROM, the configuration ROM, the mask program ROM, the RAM and the external memory interface; and

an electronically erasable programmable read only memory (EEPROM) external to the microcontroller, the EEPROM coupled to the external memory interface, the EEPROM for storing an ESN and a MAC.

25. A wireless communication device according to claim **24** wherein the microprocessor, upon receiving an ESN program command at the programming interface, determines that the security flag is not programmed with a value indicating prior storage of an ESN in the EEPROM, receives the ESN at the programming interface, stores the ESN in the RAM as the temporary ESN, executes the message authentication program to generate the MAC for the temporary ESN, stores the MAC in the RAM as the temporary MAC, stores the temporary ESN in the EEPROM as the ESN, stores the temporary MAC in the EEPROM as the MAC,

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and programs the security flag of the one-time programmable memory to indicate storage of the ESN in the EEPROM.

26. A wireless communication device according to claim **25** wherein the microprocessor, upon receiving an ESN authentication command, determines that the security flag is programmed with a value indicating prior storage of the ESN in the EEPROM, retrieves the ESN and the MAC from the EEPROM, stores the ESN in the RAM as the temporary

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ESN, stores the MAC in the RAM as the temporary MAC, executes the message authentication program to generate a new MAC for the temporary ESN, compares the new MAC to the temporary MAC, and provides the temporary ESN to the transceiver for transmission in the wireless communication system when the new MAC matches the temporary MAC.

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